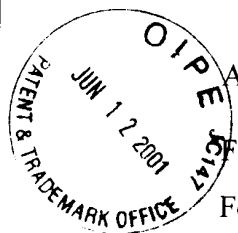


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continued Prosecution Application of:
BYRUM, Joseph R.



Appl. No.: 09/421,106

Filed: October 15, 1999

For: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with Plants

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: KIM, Y.

Atty. Docket: 38-21(15598)B

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants have filed this preliminary amendment concurrent with a Request for Continued Prosecution (CPA); Applicants respectfully request the entry of this amendment prior to examination on the merits. It is not believed that any extensions of time or additional claim fees, in addition to those set forth in the accompanying enclosures are required. However, if extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for additional claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Arnold and Porter Deposit Account No. 50-1824 referencing docket number 38-21(15598)B.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel nonelected claims 11-15 without prejudice or disclaimer to pursuing the underlying subject matter.

Please enter the following new claims:

Claim 17. (NEW) An antibody specifically binding to a protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 36935.